

❖ Faith Builder ❖

Volume 20 Issues 10

"A Church with a Heart for People"

October 2020

Message from the pastor

Dear Faith Family,

Last week I preached on Acts ch. 27. Mostly this passage was a message of perseverance and maintaining hope in the storms of life, storms like COVID-19. This storm has brought us many challenges, one of which has been how to keep the church together when we are apart. This has been extremely difficult and has put pressure on the leadership of the church to open our doors just to avoid "losing" our congregation. But I've been proud of our consistory for not giving in to fear, and instead continuing to stay faithful to what we believe God has called us to do. Even though it sounds counter-intuitive, keeping our church closed has actually been an act of faith, doing our best to obey God by looking out for everyone's physical safety while continuing to minister to our congregation's spiritual well-being through our online formats.

This leads me to a small section in Acts 27. Between verses 27 and 32, a small number of sailors accompanying Paul try to jump ship and bail. Driven by fear and panic, they foolishly think their chances will be better if they cut ties with the rest of the crew and strike out on their own. When Paul sees this, he warns the centurion that if these men leave, he cannot guarantee their safety. God has promised Paul the lives of all passengers on board the ship, but only if they stick together. As it turns out, the centurion prevents the sailors from leaving, and every single person on board is saved.

Back to our church, I recognize that during this time of being apart it can be tempting to forget about "going" to church, sending in your tithe, or checking-in with fellow members of the church. It may even be tempting to abandon ship and just find another church. But God has promised in His word to help us through this. He has given us a leadership team to discern His will and guide us through. And He has given us a church family to help one another weather this storm, even when we're not able to meet in person but are forced to resort to online services, phone calls and zoom meetings.

(Continued on next page)



Giving Options

We now have online giving! Please see our webpage (www.fairedmonds.org) or download the Tithe.ly app to be able to make payments through credit card. Or, you can still send in checks through the mail. Thank you for your faithfulness during this difficult



Thank You for Your Financial Support

September 2020

Income:	\$11,472.00
Expenses:	<u>\$13,791.52</u>
	\$ (2,319.52)

YTD

Income:	\$124,756.24
Expenses:	<u>\$139,087.41</u>
	\$(14,331.17)

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(cont'd)

At this time I urge you to continue persevering in the faith. Keep trusting in Jesus. And keep doing the little things that help us stay united, even when we're apart—things like watching the online services, calling up your church friends or emailing someone you haven't heard from in a while, joining us in our zoom meetings, praying for one another, etc. Now is a dangerous time to distance yourself from church. We are already very isolated as a society—something the Devil loves to see—and we cannot let these circumstances drive us even further apart. Instead, lean in, stay connected, and I promise God will see us through.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Andrew

Ministry Moment: Heart's Cry Children's Ministry, Panama

We received the following update from Matt and Misty Hedspeth of Heart's Cry, which is a ministry that Faith Community Church partners with, in their effort to provide support to orphaned children in Panama with special needs. The letter thanked our church for the continued support, and gave the following updates:

"In Panama, as orphanages are losing donations and having to lay off caregivers, nurses, cooks, cleaning ladies, etc., they are filling up with kids beyond capacity! It's a perfect storm. Throw in fear of COVID-19 and no one even wants to volunteer in orphanages! Now, against all logic and reasoning, we must raise \$900,000 for our 2020-2021 budget.

You have been such faithful team members as we have walked this journey together! We are so incredibly grateful for your prayers, wisdom and generosity. Please know that we are trusting in our almighty, all-knowing Father to provide everything for these precious Casa Kids. I just wanted to share with you the situation and invite you to continue walking with us. With Humble Gratitude, The Hedspeths at Heart's Cry."

Announcements

Sunday Sermons available online: If you missed a Sunday Sermon, they are now available online under the worship tab at www.faithedmonds.org,

Saturday Recording Services: If you would like to attend one of Pastor Andrew's live, sermon recordings, on Saturdays at 10 a.m., please email/call/text Pastor Andrew the week before. Attendance is capped at 25 people, and safety protocols are emailed in advance and expected to be adhered to. Pastor Andrew's info is: andrewedmonds@gmail.com / 425-563-5713.

Fellowship, Worship & Prayer Night: Join us for our next zoom fellowship on Wednesday, Oct. 21 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a great way to stay connected to the body and join together in worship and prayer. We hope to see you there!